Holy Cross Ranger District 24747 US Hwy 24 P.O. Box 190 Minturn, CO 81645 (970) 827-5715 - Voice (970) 827-9343 - Fax







## **MIDDLE CREEK ROAD #719**

Length: 4.7 miles (one way)

Difficulty: Moderate

Open To: XC, Snowshoe

**Beginning Elevation:** 9,724 feet **Ending Elevation:** 11,165 feet

Elevation Gain: +1,626 feet - 185 feet = +1,441 feet USGS Map(s): Vail West

Access from Vail: Exit I-70 at Vail exit 176 and take the North Frontage Road west to Red Sandstone Road. Turn right and follow to the winter road closure gate and park here. Travel 3 miles up Red Sandstone to Lost Lake Road #786. Turn right here and travel another 1.35 miles to Middle Creek Road.

Attractions/Considerations: This is the most popular route to the Eiseman Hut. Eiseman Hut is part of the 10th Mountain Division Hut Association system and can be reserved in advance at www.huts.org or (970) 925-5775. Excellent views of the Gore and Sawatch Ranges are abundant on this route. Snowmobiles may be encountered on the first 1.5 miles of road due to a commercial snowmobile guide service that is located on Red Sandstone Road.

<u>Trail Highlights</u>: The trail begins at the Forest Service road closure on Red Sandstone Road #700. It follows this road for 3 miles to the junction with Lost Lake Road #786. Turn right here and follow for 1.35 miles to Middle Creek Road on the right. Middle Creek Road meanders another 4.7 miles to the Eiseman Hut. Snowmobilers need to be aware that motorized vehicles are only allowed on approximately the first mile of this road before entering a winter non-motorized area. Due to its distance from the parking area (18.1 miles round trip) this trail receives less use towards the top and is suggested for skiers in good physical condition.

**Ethics/Regulations:** Before you go out, check into available routes, ownership of land, posted areas, regulations that apply, and the following rules:

- Respect private property. Ask permission before entering.
- **Be considerate** of other winter back-country travelers. We're all out to enjoy the outdoors.
- Avoid disturbing wildlife by staying out of elk and deer wintering areas. Detour if you spot wildlife.
- Wilderness Areas and Primitive areas are closed to motorized vehicles. Inquire at a local Forest Service office if in doubt. Obey all signs.
- **Beware of avalanches!** Avalanches may occur at any time during the winter. Avoid mountainous terrain after heavy snowfalls of prolonged periods of high wind. Stay on the windblown side of ridges. Avoid crossing steep hillsides and entering narrow, steep canyons.
- Remember to notify a responsible person of your travel plans.

## PACK IT IN - PACK IT OUT!! LEAVE NO TRACE!!

This map is intended for use as a general guide only, not for actual land navigation. The White River National Forest strongly suggests purchasing a topographic map and compass prior to your hiking trip.

